Beers with Ben What's Professor Dan Chambliss' dream vacation, and is it possible? Turn to **page 9** to find out.

Much ado about... *The Spectator* reviews American Shakespeare Company's production on **page 11.**

Pumpkin season's over Read about the upcoming Hamilton men's and women's squash teams on **page 14.**

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The Spectator

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014

Volume LV Number 9

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LUCAS PHILLIPS '16

Republicans sweep House, Senate as Hamilton watches

by Kevin Welsh '15
Staff Writer

In case you are part of the majority of Americans who did not vote this week, this Tuesday was Election Day. As widely predicted, Democrats lost their majority in the Senate, giving Republicans control of both houses. This is a major blow to both the Democrats nationally, and a major repudiation of President Obama as he enters the last two years of his presidency.

While the Republicans were consistently assured to maintain their majority in the House of Representatives, there was some fleeting hope for a Democratic majority Senate going into the evening. Pollsters put the odds of Democrats holding the Senate at about 25 percent, all hinging on a tight handful of races across the country.

Republicans needed to gain six seats to take control of the Senate. Coming into the evening, it was predicted that four states, Montana, South Dakota, Arkansas, and West Virginia would safely flip from blue to red, giving Republicans 49 seats, a mere two away from a majority.

The remaining possible pickups for the GOP were spread amongst Colorado, Iowa, Georgia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Louisiana and Kansas. Polling data going into most of these races looked close, but with a need for only two states to flip, the odds were always grim for the Dems.

The Democrat's hope was not immediately extinguished though. While Colorado's red win was decided fairly early on, close races in Iowa, North Carolina, Georgia, Kansas and New Hampshire held on throughout the night. New Hampshire was called early on for incumbent Democrat Jeanne Shaheen over Republican Scott Brown shortly after polls closed, yet that would be some of the last good news for the left.

Weak democratic turnout in Atlanta easily handed Georgia to the Republicans, and Iowa State Senator Joni Ernst held onto the narrow lead she had since earlier this fall and took another seat for the Republicans. Those two seats alone ensured the Republican majority in the Senate, but they would continue to cushion their lead by taking North Carolina and Kansas as well.

Another interesting Senate race came out of Louisiana where there were actually two Republicans and one Democrat on the ticket. Candidates still need to win a majority of votes though, and since no candidate did manage to garner 51 there will, in fact, be a run-off election on December 6th.

Virginia turned out to be one of the most surprising races of the night. While most analysts were confident that Democrat Mark Warner would win re-election easily this year, the night quickly became chaotic when exit polls showed another possible pick up for the Republicans. After polls closed the Warner was leading 49.1 percent to 48.6 percent triggering an automatic recount of the votes, which was still on going as of Wednesday night. That race, along with Louisiana and a still un-called race in Alaska, left the decided breakdown at 52 seats for the GOP and 45 seats for the Democrats.

Finally, in the most underreported races of the night Alaska, Oregon and the District of Columbia all voted to legalize recreational marijuana last night. Pro-legalization groups campaigned heavily during the last few months, though their

see ***Results,*** *page 3*

Learning how to save the U.S. from financial ruin

by James Bryan '16
News Contributor

On Friday, October 31, the Hamilton College Fed Challenge travel team visited the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to compete in the annual collegiate Fed Challenge. The competition requires a team of three to five participants to give a 15-minute presentation discussing the state of the American economy and concluding in a recommendation for monetary policy. Following the presentation, the team then enters a 15-minute question and answer portion, where the judges ask the team various questions about their presentation and general concepts of monetary policy. The team is then evaluated on the thoroughness of its presentation and the participants' overall understanding of the current state of the economy and broad monetary policy concepts.

Hamilton's Monetary Policy class, taught by Professor of Economics Ann Owen, participates in the competition every year. Five members serve as the travel team, who actually compete in the competition: Angelika Wieliki '15, Conor Fox '15, Brian Cameron '15, Michael Akselrad '15, and James Bryan '16 but the other members of the class make up the equally as important support team. The support team (Sam Sherman '15, Patrick Sen '15, Sam Gonzalez-Gross '15, Brooks Rozelle '16, Chris Dudley '15, Nick Ball '16 and Ivy Akumu '15) preps the travel team by asking questions in practice, but also critiquing the presentation and preparing the PowerPoint presentation that is given to judges.

"We have a great group of students this year, with everybody in the class playing an important role in developing the presentation and helping to prepare the team for the difficult Q&A portion of the competition," Professor Owen said. "It is definitely a lot of fun to work with students who are motivated to learn as much as possible about economic policy."

Hamilton's conclusion for monetary policy varied slightly from what the actual Federal Open Market Committee decided in its actual meeting in October. The team maintained the interest rate but deleted the committee's promise to markets to stay at its current rate for a considerable time. Instead, the Hamilton team replaced the clause with a list of indicators that, in the mock world of the competition, would be monitored in the future in order to determine when to raise the interest rate.

The format for the presentation was a mock Federal Open Market Committee meeting, during which members of

see ***Semi-finals,*** *page 2*

Saving swipes and fasting for a cause

by Shannon O'Brien '15
Senior Editor

Last Wednesday, October 29, over 100 students, faculty, and staff refrained from eating for the Muslim Student Association's annual fast-o-thon. Bon Appétit collaborated with the Muslim Student Association (MSA) for the event, agreeing to donate five dollars for every fast-o-thon participant who did not swipe into the dining halls during breakfast or lunch.

MSA has sponsored the fast-o-thon since 2008. Ishaq Pathan '16, the current president of MSA, explained that "the fast-a-thon is a common event among MSAs around the country." For Hamilton's MSA chapter, the fast-o-thon is the organization's main event every year.

The fast-o-thon was open to anyone, and MSA sent an email to participants the night before the fast began detailing tips for fasting. Participants were instructed to drink a lot of water and eat a large meal the night before starting their fast, but MSA also made it clear that should participants feel dizzy or disoriented at any point during the day, they should drink water or break their fast. The fast technically started at 5:57 in the morning and lasted until 5:58 in the evening. At the end of the fast, participants were invited to a dinner in the Annex, where everyone could celebrate breaking their fast and enjoy food together.

Not only was the fast-o-thon a fundraiser, but it was also a way for MSA to make people mindful of the Muslim month of Ramadan. "We hope that this event helps spread awareness about Ramadan while contributing to a good cause," Pathan said. During Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims fast each day from dawn until dusk.

"The best way students can learn about this is perhaps by experiencing what it feels like," Pathan explained. "Fasting is meant to promote self-restraint. The idea is that if you can control your body from eating, drinking and having sex, then you can control other parts of yourself that may incline towards the Islamic notion of sin."

MSA members explained the significance of fasting and Ramadan to fast-o-thon participants during their dinner. The Ramadan fast holds spiritual and religious significance for Muslims, as fasting during this month is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Pathan pointed out that fasting gives people a different perspective too. "Fasting also allows people to experience to a small degree what impoverished people around the world go through," he said.

The money raised from this year's fast-o-thon will go to a scholarship that MSA has set up for high school students in Utica who are descendants of refugees and planning to attend a two- or four-year college. MSA will give one half of this scholarship to students at the Refugee Center and the other half to the Utica School district. In the future, MSA hopes to set up a permanent scholarship with the Utica School district through their fast-o-thon event.

AHI lecture reflects upon Lincoln's leadership

by Ilana Schwartz '17
News Contributor

How does a good leader become a great leader? There have been many great leaders throughout America's history, but for many, Abraham Lincoln stands out as one of the greatest. According to former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, Frank Williams, there have been over 16,000 books written on Lincoln alone and over 65,000 on the Civil War, which means that there is approximately one book for each day that has passed since the war ended. One of these books is called *Abraham Lincoln, Philosopher Statesman*, published in 2014 by Joseph R. Fornieri, a professor of political science at Rochester Institute of Technology, who specializes on the ideology of Abraham Lincoln. Fornieri, an Alexander Hamilton Institute Senior Fellow, was invited by the AHI Undergraduate Fellows to give a lecture on President Lincoln this past Monday, Nov. 3.

> **"Professor Fornieri's portrait of Lincoln provides a serious framework for leadership[...]."**
> *—Philip Parkes '17*

Fornieri takes a different approach in his book from other authors, because he analyzes Lincoln as a "philosopher-statesman" rather than just as a statesman. Fornieri consults the teachings of ancient philosophers and applies these teachings to the ways in which Lincoln led America. He claims that Lincoln found a way to "unite greatness of thought and action," which was crucial during the Civil War. Fornieri defines six dimensions that create a framework of understanding for Lincoln's philosophy, which are theoretical wisdom, prudence, duty, magnanimity, rhetoric and patriotism.

After Fornieri finished his lecture, there was a short panel discussion with Justice Williams and Dr. David Frisk, a founding chairman of the Lincoln Forum. Williams discussed Lincoln's political courage and focused specifically on the patriotism chapter of Fornieri's book. He made it clear that one of the reasons Lincoln was such a great leader was because he truly loved his country; he "gave his last full measure of devotion through his own assassination," and this kind of sacrifice and passion is lacking among Americans today.

Frisk discussed the fact that Lincoln was a great political manager and had a large intellectual range, despite his lack of a formal education. Frisk also spoke about how Lincoln's religious faith affected his politics, a concept Fornieri did not mention in his book. During his early years, Lincoln tended towards atheism, and Frisk questioned whether this helped him think through issues more rationally than other leaders. Fornieri believed, on the other hand, that Lincoln's religious beliefs did not greatly affect his political thinking.

Professor Douglass Ambrose, the moderator of the discussion, disagreed with Fornieri in some respects because it is crucial to consider the context of leadership. Time and place are important when judging how a person chooses to lead, which is why Ambrose was "wary of abstracting from historical subjects general principles and making them transferrable" to other time periods. Despite this differing opinion, Ambrose agreed that there are certain qualities of a leader that are not time-and-place specific, including wisdom, prudence, duty, magnanimity, rhetoric and patriotism.

Elizabeth Barry '17 said that this talk taught her that it's crucial to "hold our politicians to a higher standard of statesmanship. We need to choose our political candidates based on the quality of their moral character instead of on whether they are Republican, Democrat, or Independent."

Fornieri's book describes what makes a truly great leader, which is being a philosophical statesman. Philip Parkes '17 said "Professor Fornieri's portrait of Lincoln provides a serious framework for leadership at a time when the word is often used lightly or without substance." It is crucial to consider when the last time was that the U.S. had a politician who truly exemplified all of six dimensions of Lincoln's philosophical statesmanship.

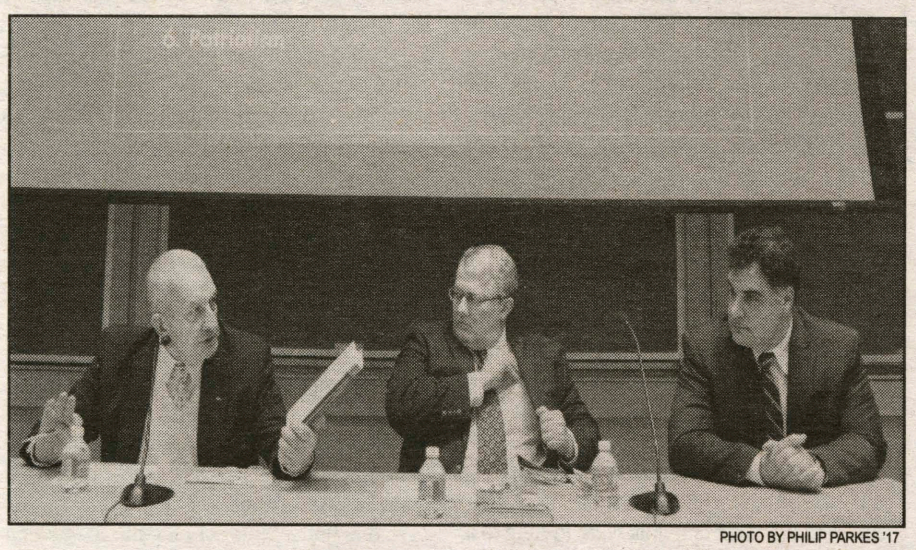

PHOTO BY PHILIP PARKES '17

Panelists Frank Williams, David Frisk and lecturer Joseph Fornieri discuss Lincoln at the event Monday.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Writer

Williams students petition against fossil fuel

The Williams Endowment Initiative, an organization made up of both students and alumni, is circulating a petition urging the College's Board of Trustees to divest the endowment's holding in fossil fuel corporations. Thus far, the petition has received almost 500 signatures, according *The Williams Record*. It requests that "the Investment Office avoid further investment in the 200 largest fossil fuel corporations and divest the endowment of its current direct and indirect holdings in these organizations within the next five years. The petition also calls for the reallocation of these funds to green, environmentally friendly corporations."

"I think that Williams equips students with the skills and passion to go out and make positive change in the world, and I think that divestment gives Williams the opportunity to make positive change as an institution. Fossil fuels are harmful to the environment, and I think that Williams should be proactive in supporting the environment and green energy by divesting," said Garrett Welson '15, liaison to the Endownment Initiative of Divest Williams.

Divest Williams is a student group that also aims to divest the endowment from fossil fuel companies. "My personal interest in divestment came out of concern about climate change more broadly; I had this realization earlier this year that as long as the CEO of Exxon Mobil could just walk into the halls of Congress with his head held high, nothing was going to change – the fossil fuel industry was going to maintain its grip on every aspect of our politics and economy," said Miles Horton '15, co-leader of Divest Williams. "Really the only way to change that would be for institutions like Williams, that have some degree of credibility and moral authority, to stand up and say 'We want no part in this, and no one else should either–we really can do better.' We do so much good stuff, environmentally, on campus already, but divestment represents our only chance to be part of the movement that resonates beyond the boundaries of our valley."

Tufts senior receives scholarship from Astronaut Scholarship Foundation

Tufts student Summer Morrill '15 was awarded a $10,000 scholarship from The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation.

The Astronaut Scholarship is a tuition grant that was started by the Mercury 7 astronauts, a group of astronauts who aim to fund college students interested science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), according to the Tufts Daily. Morrill explained that originally she thought she was going to have to graduate early, but the scholarship will give her the opportunity to finish off her senior year at Tufts.

Astronaut Kathryn Thornton awarded Morrill the scholarship. "I think the most meaningful part for me was hearing her story," Morrill said. "[Thornton] is the second woman ever to be admitted into the space program, which just blows my mind. She never intended to go into the space program, which is kind of how I feel about research. I didn't think I was going to go into it, but applying to so many labs and scholarships has given me so many different opportunities."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Fed Challenge team qualifies for Semi-Finals

from ***Financial ruin,*** *page 1*

our team debated the issues, rather than simply presenting or discussing them. The plan was successful in the first round, as the team won its division of four teams and scored a 19/20 in the process.

The Hamilton team will go back to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on Nov. 14 to the compete against two other team in the regional semi-final. If they win, the Hamilton participants will compete in the regional final later that day.

Winning the regional final will send the team to Washington D.C. to compete for in the national championship. Only three of the nine teams Hamilton has sent in the past have made it the semi-final, and none have qualified for nationals.

To prepare for the upcoming semi-final, the travel team is making some slight adjustments to the script and policy recommendation, while the support team is tirelessly researching economic information that could potentially come up in questions. The team is confident and motivated, with all participants feeling that they have a good shot to qualify for at least the regional finals.

The Fed Challenge team poses for a photo after the competition.

Students watch election results in Sadove

from ***Republican,*** *page 1*

success was still uncertain going into Tuesday. Alaska is always nearly impossible to accurately poll, and Oregon's race was too tight to call, though the District's win was easily foreseen.

On the Hill, the Hamilton College Republicans and Democrats came together for the night, sharing fried chicken and macaroni and cheese in the Sadove Living Room. After the night's big win for the GOP Sarah Larson '15, president of the College Republicans explained the big win, "Team Republican cashed out in a big way last night. The fact of the matter is that when push came to shove Republicans showed up to the polls and Democrats didn't." And so far as the party's legislative direction for the coming session she said that, "Republicans have to stop being a party of no and start being a party of solutions."

Tracy Mazzerole '15, president of the College Democrats was not as optimistic, "So while there are still a few states out there left to be counted, the results of this year's midterms as beyond decided. America has chosen to elect a unified legislature for the first time since 2010 giving brief hope for more legislative progress in the next two years, though the President Obama's reaction is yet to be measured and may just ensure another two years of partisan gridlock instead of progress."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Friday, October 31, 2014

12:52 a.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Skenandoa House

1:00 a.m. Area Check – Wertimer Lot

1:02 a.m. Marijuana Complaint – Wertimer Lot

1:49 a.m. Area Check – Steuben Field

2:19 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

3:46 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Eells House

5:55 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Bundy West

6:12 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Bundy West

6:38 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

9:36 p.m. Noise/Disruptive Party – Bundy East

9:50 p.m. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall

10:58 p.m. Medical Emergency – Milbank Hall Exterior

11:08 p.m. Marijuana Complaint – Milbank Hall Exterior

Saturday, November 1, 2014

12:49 a.m. Area Check – TSA Pond

1:02 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation – Bundy West

1:21 a.m. Medical Emergency – KJ Atrium

3:52 a.m. Criminal Mischief – North Hall

4:21 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Woollcott House

5:12 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Dunham Hall

5:41 p.m. Animal Complaint – Babbitt Hall

6:59 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

9:59 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Babbitt Hall

10:21 p.m. Concern for Welfare – Chapel

10:50 p.m. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall

11:12 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

11:28 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Sunday, September 21, 2014

12:15 a.m. Noise Complaint – 4002 Campus Road

12:35 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

12:46 a.m. Medical Emergency – Horticulture Building (Exterior)

1:08 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

1:24 a.m. Medical Emergency – Events Barn

1:32 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

1:36 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

1:48 a.m. Intrusion Alarm – Bookstore

1:59 a.m. Disorderly Conduct – Martin's Way

2:10 a.m. Area Check – Martin's Way

6:15 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Dunham Hall

3:34 p.m. Medical Emergency – Alumni Gym

7:58 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Did *you* vote?

Are we doing our civic duty and voting? Nationally, the Pew Research Center, pending analysis by the National Census Bureau, reported that voters under the age of 30 comprised 13% of those who voted on Tuesday. Similarly, an informal poll of students in the Student Media office on Wednesday night revealed that only one third of the students present actually voted this week. This is certainly not a new story. The self-righteous have long bemoaned the chronically low voting numbers in US elections, particularly in midterm elections. While this phenomenon is disappointing, *The Spectator* cannot tackle American mid-term voter apathy, choosing instead to focus on the lackluster political climate on campus.

Although many of the elections across the country seem distant, and Washington D.C. itself is indeed a relatively remote concept, each race affects our lives. So, the questions we are asking are: where is the publicity around this election? Why are students not constantly bombarded by emails reminding them to vote? Or to care about politics off of the Hill? Yes, we have many pressing issues of our own—whether that is figuring out our futures or simply worrying about the mid-term exam next week—but that does not mean that the political world outside of Hamilton does not deserve our attention.

While we certainly applaud the HC Democrats and Republicans and the Government Department for hosting an election night event, we worry that this became a piece of political theatre rather than a pragmatic discussion of issues and policy. Instead of hosting a debate on the pros and cons of the past Supreme Court "Hobby Lobby" decision, these clubs could have used their platform to encourage frank discussions of current issues and electoral politics. By hosting an election night party, they are focusing on the election after students would have had the chance to vote. We need to encourage voting and actively challenge students electoral apathy.

The Spectator supports any and all efforts to encourage students to be more politically active. Even students that do not consider themselves to be "political" or to have an strong opinion about current issues can make a difference in elections. One does not have to be a government major to understand the issues on a ballot. Though many students will argue that they are not voting because their vote "does not matter" or that their Representative is running unopposed, there is always something new that matters on the ballot. To give just a few examples, voters in various states voted on legalizing marijuana, allowing bear baiting and stricter gun control laws this past Tuesday. These remain significant issues not just in the states in which they were passed but in the nation as a whole and therefore deserve to be given attention by the student body.

The simple fact is: politics matter. Whether you are a majoring in biochemistry, creative writing or world politics, elected officials will have a direct effect on your life. In that vein, voting matters. We believe that as a school we need to talk more about electoral politics and government. Let's encourage more dialogue before the election and challenge students to vote.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

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Celebrating our 164th year in print. First published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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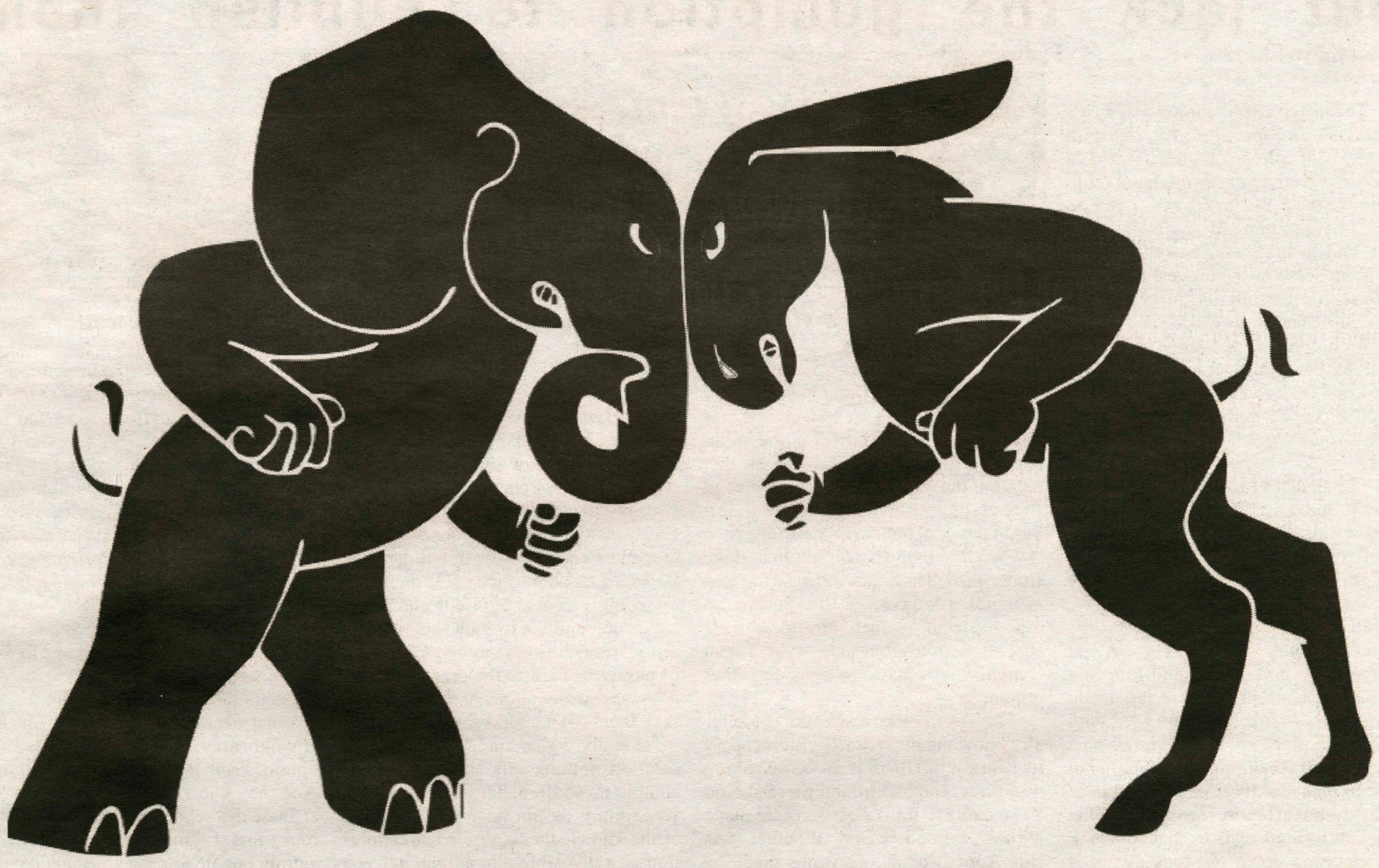
Americans call for bipartisan change with midterm results



GRAPHIC BY CHARLOTTE SIMONS '16

by Patrick English '15
OPINION EDITOR

The midterm elections took the pulse of a nation that is losing faith in their president and the establishment currently in Congress. Seven senate seats changed parties and three senate incumbents lost their seats as Americans sent a message that they expect more from the current administration. However, it is unlikely much bipartisan legislation will result from these changes.

Since Republicans gained control of the House in 2010, Congress's approval ratings have stayed steadily under 20 percent, dipping as low as 9 percent according to a Gallup poll in Nov. 2013. With dozens of jobs bills stopped by both parties, Congress has done virtually nothing to improve our employment rate. With Republicans controlling both houses, the pressure falls on President Obama to reach across the aisle and work alongside the new senate majority leader Mitch McConnell.

It is unlikely for a president who did his best work in his first two years, while he had a Democrat-controlled Congress, to get much passed now that he'll be forced to work with the opposite party. Therefore, Americans will have to wait until after the next presidential election to see significant bipartisan legislation.

The two biggest issues facing the nation, and impacting Hamilton students, are the current state of the economy and the ongoing War on Terror. Hamilton students are graduating into a job market that still has very few opportunities. While the unemployment rate fell to 5.9 percent last month, the underemployment rate still ranks high at 11.8 percent. While more Americans are employed, they are working part-time jobs that do not meet their skills, and certainly do not meet their desired standard of living.

Americans are also tired of being a nation at war. U.S. troops have now been fighting in the Middle East for over thirteen years with no end in sight. President Obama promised to fully withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Iraq in his first term. Instead the president called for a 33,000-strong increase in forces in 2009. With 9,800 troops still in Afghanistan and varieties of different measures the threat of ISIS it is hard to see an end to ground troops at war.

With the cynical air that has surrounded American politics in the last four years, it is often tough to find a silver lining. However, the Senate's recent changes may have some good to them. Nearly all of the new faces in Congress come from outside of the Washington political sphere, hailing from state legislatures or even directly from the private sector. Hopefully the pressure from the parties and lobbyists will not deter these Washington newcomers from changing the broken political culture. If they can bring a true bipartisan attitude to the U.S. Congress, they may be able to successfully work with President Obama and our next president, whichever party he or she may come from. Experience from the private sector will allow these newcomers to reach across the aisle and work on bills to create jobs and move troops out of the Middle East. Their outside ideas will change how Washington tackles the nation's problems. While the government's immediate future might look bleak, Americans have at the very least sent their representatives a message that they want change. It is now Washington's turn to respond.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
A Dream Play Opens: watch people who haven't slept in two weeks act out what a dream is.	Student Van Safety Training: know how to drive in rain, snow, hail and roughly 1.5 inches of beer and vomit.	Second Flu Shot Session: Second chance for your dad to make that stellar, "at least it's not Ebola" joke.
We Added Extra Classes on Food: Including Global Stations 101: no more pasta.	Dodgeball is a Winter IM Sport: First team with a name in reference to the movie automatically loses.	Midterm Elections: For your country, not a chance for you to vote against that exam you failed.
Women's Golf Team Tryouts: We haven't seen clubbin' this stellar since The	Tourism in the Caribbean Discussion: Bound to put on a damper on your Spring Break plans.	Full Moon Party: Streakers, this doesn't mean you.

by Shea Crockett '15 and Wynn Van Dusen '15

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Hamilton students don't lack opinions but lack the gumption to publish them

by Kevin Welsh '15
Staff Writer

HAMILTON.EDU

The Nesbitt-Johnston Writing Center provides students with resources to improve their written work.

This is the tenth opinion piece I've written for *The Spectator*. I started with the idiocy of college rankings, and have since covered everything from club sports to the FYE to YikYak. I like to think I have gotten progressively better at it, and in that vein, I would like to point out some of the biggest problems I see with other opinion pieces I have seen published in *The Spec*. Some are based on content, and some are based on style, but I think at a school that is renowned for its writing instruction, we should all expect more out of our student publications, especially our journalistic ones.

The first tip to writing a good op-ed is to have a clearly defined stance. I know this may seem obvious, but I will occasionally skim through articles and realize halfway through that they are not supposed to be news pieces, despite all other signs to the contrary. If you are going to write an op-ed, you have to have an opinion, and I mean a strong, articulate, precise and passionate opinion. And make sure you lead with it. While a piece should not ignore the other side of the argument, I should not have to meander through every side of every argument before recognizing what your side is. State up front that you think that chaining down the rock swing is egregious strike against Kirkland and general liberties, and then move from there.

Next, explain why you are right. I know it is tempting in any op-ed to just list all the reasons why your least favorite thing is bad, stupid and dangerous. You should not resort to bashing, however. Explain why your least favorite thing is a bad idea, but also explain why your idea is better. Demonstrate that a change, or maybe a lack of change, has more merits than whatever the other person is proposing. If you think that denying the late night Jitney service to students under 21 is dangerous because it might tempt people to drive drunk, then say that, but then also highlight that the Jitney provides a safe alternative that does not risk anyone's life. Putting up a pouty front against 'The Man' feels right sometimes, but unless you are an anarchist, you have to consider other opinions too.

And by the way, make sure you actually know the other side's argument. At its heart, journalism is all about asking questions, and no opinion piece should be so naïve to think decisions are made without a good reason. Whether it is Bon Appétit or the decisions made by the Dean of Students office, changes are always made for a reason, and completely ignoring those reasons makes for shoddy journalism and horrendous arguments. Do not assume, and do not make sweeping statements; they are always full of holes to be poked. Know thyself, and know thy opponent.

Moving on to style concerns, do not be smug. For the love of God, do not forget that being right and being persuasive is not always the same thing. No one likes being talked down to. Being smarmy about how much smarter you are will make some people appreciate you, but most people will detest you and, by association, hate your arguments too. But I get it. The truth will get out! It should be about facts! But then why be so aggressive about it? If your ideas are strong and clear, then they will do all the heavy lifting you need. Cute turns of phrase to belittle the other side will not win you any points in the debate, so save them for a good Facebook status.

Finally, make sure you propose a solution. I think this sin is the one I commit most often, because sometimes you simply do not have the resources or the knowledge to pose a better solution or a plausible alternative, but you should always try. Reading a well argued, civil piece about a problem can still be unfulfilling if there is no bright side at the end. Outlining all the problems with an idea, but never finding a better solution makes the problem just seem insurmountable and permanent, which makes people apathetic. A piece needs to inspire action, not cement inaction. When you dislike something, do not just rest on your angst. Other people may not share your discontent, and will subsequently feel totally fine about leaving everything alone. Plan for the light at the end of the tunnel and point the way towards it. That will give your piece a sense of closure and hope, things that other people can then improve upon.

Generally speaking, *The Spec* struggles to get any op-eds in each issue, let alone well conceived, articulate ones. However, this is not because of a lack of opinions on campus. If the heated conversations I hear in KJ Atrium, or the abstract pieces I see in *The Daily Bull* are any indication, Hamilton students have opinions about practically everything. And they know how to write well—or at least the school hopes you do after four years. I think the main problem is getting people to send an email saying, "Hey, this is a problem, and I want to explain why." And believe me, that is all it takes to write an opinion piece: an opinion and a will to publish it. So if you have strong, specific, well researched feelings on anything, email *The Spectator*, or talk to the editors about it. Maybe then you will be another big-mouth who chides other people, just like me.

We should have fewer As on our transcripts

by Hady Hewidy '17
Opinion Writer

Wouldn't it be nice to have 100 trillion dollars? That would not just make you the wealthiest person in the world; it would let you purchase the entire world economy and have a decent amount left to maybe purchase Mars. Hold on! What if that money is in Zimbabwean dollars? Oops, but due to inflation, you can only spend your entire wealth on a Big Mac.

Last Monday, Oct. 27, a lunch event was held to discuss grades and grading at Hamilton, both over time and across departments. Only three students (including myself) awkwardly attended the professor-dominated talk. The one-hour discussion covered many aspects of grading, including the criteria and even the purpose of grading. It was very interesting to watch different professors argue over the purpose of grades, and how these grades should be awarded.

Statistically, grade inflation does exist at Hamilton, like most other higher education institutions in the United States. Professor of Economics Stephen Wu mentioned that while some departments have sustained the same grade level over the last 15 years, others had experienced an average increase of about 0.4 grade point average points. Has the intellectual quality of the student body really improved that much over the last 15 years here at Hamilton? I could safely say no; it is hard to believe that the students taking courses in specific departments have improved that much, unless mega-accelerated evolution is a thing (and only affecting the students of those particular departments).

That observation leads us to an important question: what does each grade mean? It should be pretty simple: C stands for 'average', B stands for 'above average' and the beloved A stands for 'excellent'. With that being said, most of Hamilton's student should fall into the C grade average, but this is not the case. Inflation has made a trillion Zimbabwean dollars as worthless as a Hamilton email. Inflation is also swaying our grades, and decreasing their value.

Similar to money, grades are meaningless in themselves, as they gain value from the collective recognition we assign them. Furthermore, excellence should be, by its very definition, rare. However, in our continuous pursuit of individual recognition, we might have lowered the bar more than we have tried to seek recognition. Humans love accolades, but if everyone could easily receive them, they became worthless.

HAMILTON.EDU

While Hamilton students are working hard for higher grades, their results should reflect their standing compared to their peers.

Hamilton should be a national leader in curbing grade inflation. Hamilton should be a place where an A represents true and genuine achievement and talent. Let us please start before our transcripts become as valueless as a Zimbabwean dollar.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

James Kurtak '17

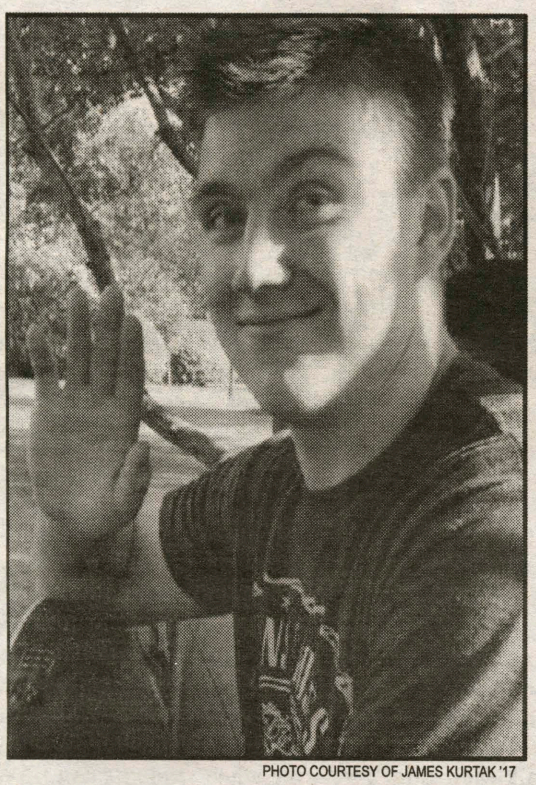


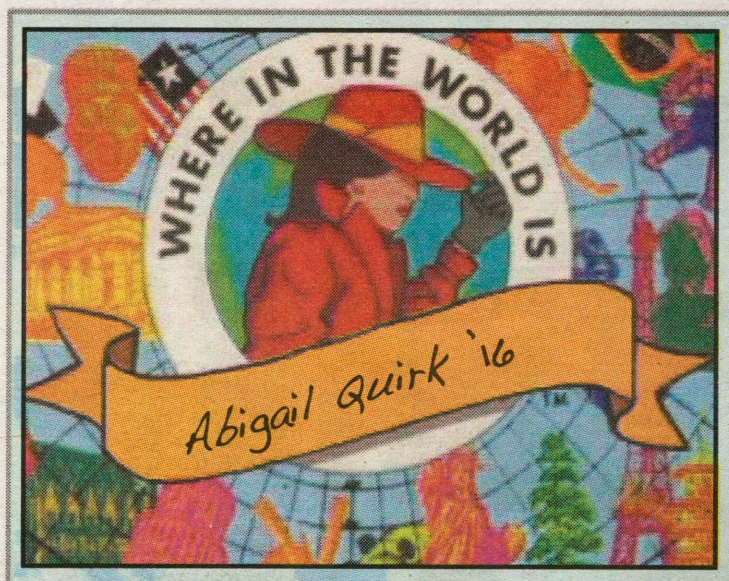
PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES KURTAK '17

Hometown: *Tucson, AZ*
Home on Campus: *The Library.*
Major: *Economics/ Spanish.*
Turn On? *When they've seen* The Princess Bride.
Turn Off? *When they can't hold an interesting conversation.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Farmhouse—it's pretty fun and inbetween the dark/lightside.*
Lights on or lights off? *Dimmish?*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *David Bowie and Queen—pressure!*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *We drink all we can. The rest we sell.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Fantasy.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Damn girl you so fine it makes me want to slay fifteen of the Byzantine hoards' most honorable warriors and present their sundered blades to your father.*
What's your type? *Silly, cute and funny.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Tacos, sleep, movies.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My bed. Sleep cures all.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The Buffers—if I could sing. Seriously, those guys are amazing.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Throw a party in one of the educational buildings—KJ maybe?*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Summer dresses.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *All the random really racist stuff that happens here now and again.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *This one blonde freshman girl—don't know her name, but she's gorgeous.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *One of the language teachers—idk which but she looks like a student.*
What would your perfect date be? *Cuddling on a bed while watching the* Lord of the Rings *trilogy with Chinese food and a bottle of wine.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *An old handcrafted Chinese teapot.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Campo letting themselves into your room during random fire inspections. Points for Campo!*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Parfaits! Have you ever met a person, you say, "Let's get some parfait," they say, "Hell no, I don't like no parfait"? Parfaits are delicious!*

Emily Chan '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY CHAN '16

Hometown: *Newton, MA*
Home on Campus: *Dunham D-run (3rd floor).*
Major: *Neuroscience.*
Turn On? *Someone who's funny and challenges me.*
Turn Off? *Bad breath.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Bundy—single-life.*
Lights on or lights off? *Off!*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Calvin Harris and Beyoncé would be a cool combo.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Don't dream it. Drive it." - Jaguar.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Sitcom.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Are you a bunny? I'd totally do a bunny. (Halloween 2014)*
What's your type? *Athletic, funny and taller than I am (>5'3).*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Ronnie's eggs at Commons, early morn' Opus iced coffee and Ryan Ong.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bundy Dining Hall.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The dogrun.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The Keytone Lights (they seem like they have a good time).*
What's your spirit animal and why? *Beagle—personable and ready for whatever.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Get on the late night jitney.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Streaking Team Halloween run.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *The bike lane.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Kenny Ratliff ;)*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Prof. Bedient*
What would your perfect date be? *Coffee is fine!*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *I received an unused Go-Girl from my roommate for my birthday.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Freshmen who stop in the middle of Martin's Way.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Sour Patch—sour and sweet.*



Quirk '16 and friends at Nyhavn, Copenhagen's famous harbor.

by Abigail Quirk '16
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

The first email I sent my parents after arriving in Copenhagen was simply a list of all the cultural differences I had noticed. I didn't really know what to expect, but I was still shocked that in a country where I blend into a sea of tall blondes and everyone over the age of 14 speaks English fluently, I still found myself feeling like I was in an entirely different world.

For example, parents will leave their babies unattended in strollers outside cafés while they go inside and have a leisurely cup of coffee with friends. As unimaginable as this is for Americans, they don't really have anything to worry about here, as violent crimes and kidnappings are almost non-existent. A less frightening but equally surprising find: Danes don't jaywalk. Not even at three in the morning at a designated crosswalk that has been red for two minutes with no sign of changing and not a single car in sight. They just won't do it. It might be because they're used to constant bombardment by a never-ending stream of bikes. I knew Copenhagen was the bike capital of the world, but I didn't realize that meant there were consistently more bikes than cars on the streets, and that in some cases the bike lanes are actually bigger than the car lanes.

Of course, probably the biggest surprise to me was the welfare state, which was made clear to me by how expensive everything is. I've spent $8 on a cup of coffee, $15 on a burrito and $20 on a cocktail. Every product sold in Denmark has an automatic 25% tax added to it, one of several crazy taxes in the country, including a property tax equal to whatever you would make monthly if you rented out your house and an income tax above 60% for the highest earning bracket. It all pays off though, as healthcare is free, families get 52 weeks maternity/paternity leave to be split between the two parents, employees have six weeks of vacation that they are required to take, and students don't just go to school for free, they actually get paid a stipend while enrolled in university to cover food and living costs.

Oh, and if they can't find a job after they graduate? Denmark will pay them a small monthly amount for up to two years to help them get by while they're searching.

My time in Denmark has been absolutely wonderful. I live in a *kollegium* which is the Danish version of a dorm, except any university student can live here no matter what school they attend, what level degree they are pursuing, or how old they are. My hall has 15 people in it, and we share a kitchen, so I've gotten to know a lot of Danes really well. The *kollegium* itself also has a great bar with foosball, darts, and a very cheap bar where any resident can volunteer to bartend for a night!

Fortunately, being in a *kollegium* does not necessarily mean missing out on the study abroad tradition of a host family, and I have a "visiting" Danish family that I hang out with a lot; I get dinner with them, watch their handball games and even walk their dog. I've met a lot of other international students as well, thanks to the club volleyball team I joined. Twice a week I play with women from Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Estonia, Spain and France, and we often go out for food or drinks outside of practice.

My program, Danish Institute for Study Abroad, has also been really great. They have over 150 classes in a variety of subjects and all the teachers are professionals in their field. Above all, they provide a lot of time for travel and exploration in the city. There are no classes on Wednesdays, and sometimes that means you get a day off to sightsee on your own, and sometimes that means you get to go on a field trip with one of your classes. There are two breaks during the semester when students can travel wherever they want (I went to Oslo, Malmö, Paris, London, Edinburgh, St. Andrews and Berlin), and one week of travel with your core course, which my Positive Psychology class spent in Budapest learning about happiness in a post-Communist society and enjoying ruin bars, thermal baths and spa treatments. I no longer feel like I am in a different world. Denmark has become my world, and I hope that when I have to leave in a month, I won't be saying goodbye for good.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABIGAIL QUIRK '16

(Left): Quirk '16 jumping into the harbor baths. (Right): Quirk '16 posing with her club volleyball team.

Beers with Ben at The Little Pub

by Ben Fields '15
Senior Managing Editor

"Beers with Ben" *features various members of the Hamilton faculty in off-the-cuff interviews at the Little Pub.*

This week features **Eugene M. Tobin Distinguished Professor of Sociology Daniel Chambliss.**

What is your least favorite thing about humanity?
That's a tough question. A lot of people can be cruel. That's really not good. That's too quick an answer huh? Another thing you could say is that we're on the edge of wiping out ourselves and every other species in about three different ways I can think of off the top of my head. That's not a good track record. I honestly think human beings are going to be the death of the planet. But as a general day-to-day, what do I hate about humanity, people are mean, or at least can be.

What is your favorite thing about humanity?
These are tough questions, you understand? See that's not quite the same as people, that's where it's tricky. We smile a lot. Genuine smiles are a nice thing. Dancing is a nice thing. Those are right up there.

Do you believe in aliens?
No. Not in the sense you mean.

Have you ever been offered a bribe?
If I have, I must have responded in such a way that it didn't get serious.

Do you have a favorite Disney character?
I'm not a Disney fan. But I wore a Mickey Mouse t-shirt all the way through college. And I went to Disney World the first week it was open, in 1974. I had a big breakfast of blueberry pancakes, the first thing there, and then went on the tea cups and nearly spewed all over the park.

If you could have any celebrity as your best friend, who would it be?
Maybe Dolly Parton, I think she's a wonderful human being.

How much did you drink in college?
Zero. No that's not quite true. I literally drank one time in college and it was Thanksgiving. It was a dinner at my advisor's house, and it was Crème de Menthe. It was liquor. And I managed to drink enough that I got sick, and I swore I'd never do it again. I know, that's unusual. I was also surrounded by people who did all kinds of drugs all the time and I never did that, but I had a fabulous time.

If you could change anything about Hamilton what would you change?
The obvious thing is I would put it somewhere south of Pennsylvania. I hate walking on ice, and it bothers me a lot. The cute answer would be, I'd like all the students to relax. I mean people are too scared, uptight, all the time.

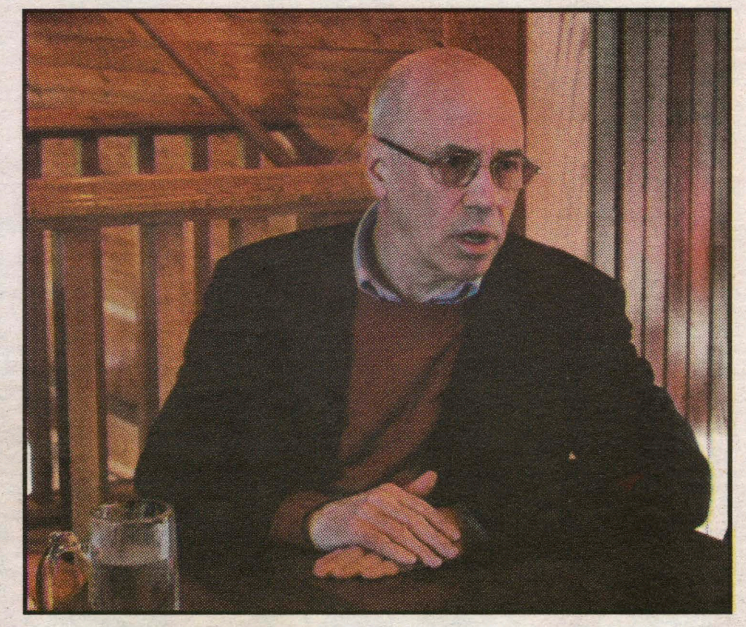
Describe yourself in three words?
Well, that's embarrassing, I mean what do you say? I mean there's so much wishful thinking involved. Gee, that's tough, not because I can't do it, but because I don't know if I want it in the newspaper. Well, intellectual, people are going to misread that, but there's no doubt about it. I just think about things all the time. Second would probably be, I hope I'm a nice person, that's second. Third, those are clearly the two good ones, modest, that's true. I mean I brag periodically, but at a deep level I really don't overplay what I am and what I've done. But that's a tough question, because I'm afraid people will read it and go, 'Oh, this guy's full of shit.'

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
That's easy. Two things: number one, a broadway musical comedy star, which I'd be great at except I can't sing and I can't dance. I don't have the ability, but I would love to be one. Second is a swimming coach, that I could have been, but it's hard to make a living out of it.

If you weren't a professor now what would you be?
High school teacher. High school English or social studies teacher. I've never thought of myself as a professional scholar, I'm a teacher.

What book are you currently reading for fun?
The problem I have with that is that I can never remember what I'm reading, and a read a ton of books for fun. The latest book I'm reading for fun is a book about what's wrong with the way sociologists do quantitative multivariable analysis, kind of a statistics book. And I mean for fun, it has nothing to do with my classes, and I'm sitting in the bathtub at night reading this book.

PHOTOS BY BETH COMATOS '15



I know you said you don't sing…
I used to, in high school let's say I was a passable singer.

But if you had to pick a Hamilton faculty member to sing karaoke with, who would it be?
Now, actually, I sang karaoke in a bar a couple of years ago. I picked Stevie Ray Vaughan's "Pride and Joy". It actually came out not bad. And then I did something else which was a terrible mistake. I'm thinking of the creative possibilities, because this person is going to notice this. Deborah Pokinski, in Art History.

What superhero would you be, and if you could dress up as them, would you?
Green Lantern. If you had the chance to do it, would you? No. And the only reason I pick Green Lantern is for some reason as a kid I thought it was an appealing character. I have no idea what he is or what his powers are or anything, I have no earthly idea. So, it's not based on super powers, purely aesthetics.

If you could say anything to any world leader past or present, who would you talk to and what would you say?
Oh God, one of those questions! Hmm, I probably couldn't say that in the paper. See I've just never had any desire, never been interested in meeting such people. Well, Jimmy Carter, and I would say: you've done way more good for the world than anyone gives you credit for. And he's almost heard it from me.

What dorm would you live in?
Yeah, when I was in college I really liked living in a suite. I had a single room but shared bathrooms, shared eating, all that. I love certain elements of dormitory life. What's funny is a lot of students here will have a fabulous time in college, and a large part of it is because they're living in a dorm. And then, they'll go out and spend the rest of their lives trying to live in a big house as far away from other people, and they wonder why they're unhappy.

Where would you have your office if you could put it anywhere on campus?
Oh! It would be not where it is. Oh god. When they redesigned the building, early on I was actually on the committee, and I made a big pitch for putting faculty offices up at the front of the building. So they put all the econ and all the government offices up in the front of the building. And then stuck me and my department way in the middle of nowhere. I hate it. I would put my office where KJ 101 is. I would put my office in the front of KJ with a big glass window on the front. I'm in my office because I want to see students.

If you could go back in time to any era, when and where would you go?
That's easy. To when I was in college, A) Because I love being in college, B) Because I think it was the best time for America. The early '70s. Vietnam was ending, Civil Rights Movement appeared to be successful—which it turned out not to be—women's rights were coming on and seemed to have good momentum. People had a lot of hope, and that's not the case now. The only thing better about now compared to then, is our anesthesia is better. That is medical anesthesia works better now.

Where would you go on your dream vacation?
It's a dream right? To be 30-years-old on a beach on Santa Bell Island in Florida, with a woman who once asked to go to Santa Bell Island with me.

If they were to make a biopic about your life, who would play you?
See I don't know actors and stuff well enough to answer that. Although, I kind of think Ben Stiller and I have something in common. I used to have hair, just so you know. I think actually Ben Stiller is the closest thing.

Favorite word?
I bet my students can answer that actually. Prepredicative, it's not my favorite word, but it's one of my favorite concepts.

Least favorite word?
Very, totally useless. [Via email, Professor Chambliss updated this to aspect.]

Favorite curse word?
Oh man, this is tough. That's serious, let me think. Boogers. B-o-o-g-e-r-s.

Sound that you love?
Chickadees in the morning.

Sound that you hate?
Yeah, the beeping of trucks when they back up, I don't like that. That's kind of a weak answer.

Is there a profession you would never do?
Lots. Oh yeah, most. Debt collector is bad.

Assuming heaven exists, what would you want God or St. Peter to say to you?
The pool is over there; here are your sunglasses.

What would he actually say?
It's heaven, that's what he would say.

Three things on a desert island?
The collected works of Nietzsche, that'd be the first. A pen and my grandchildren.

Have you ever killed a man just to watch him die?
Like Johnny Cash? I'm taking it metaphorically, no. I mean once I sort of think about it, no. In the sense of doing something negative just to see it happen, I can't recall ever doing that.

Lentricchia brings his latest novel to the Hill

by Adam Evertz '17
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This week Hamilton College was visited by Frank Lentricchia, a famed literary critic, novelist and professor at Duke University. A Utica native and graduate of Utica College, Lentricchia began his career primarily as an academic, and has since turned toward producing creative work — most recently, crime fiction set in the city of Utica. On Monday, he gave a reading from his novel, *The Killer Dog of Utica*, the latest in his "Eliot Conte" series of crime novels (the protagonist of which, incidentally, is a Hamilton graduate). His writing is eccentric and lively, filled with deadpan humor and drawn from his experiences as an Italian-American. The talk on Tuesday, entitled "Writing as an Italian-American?" (with an extra emphasis on the question mark, as he made sure to remind the audience) sought to explain Lentricchia's view of himself as a writer drawing from the Italian-American experience and what these experiences mean to him as an artist.

I arrived very early to the talk on Tuesday. The only other guests to have arrived so far were old Italian Uticans themselves. The experience was surreal. I was surrounded by fading Italian accents, wafting colognes and talk of growing up in old Utica. Slowly, students, faculty, and finally, Lentricchia himself, began to arrive. Lentricchia's manner was very charismatic—afterwards, his brother-in-law confirmed that he is an extremely down-to-earth and likable man. Like his prose, his speech is rife with bursts of a somewhat sardonic humor. After a short introduction by Professor Steve Yao, he begins what he calls a "conflicted essay."

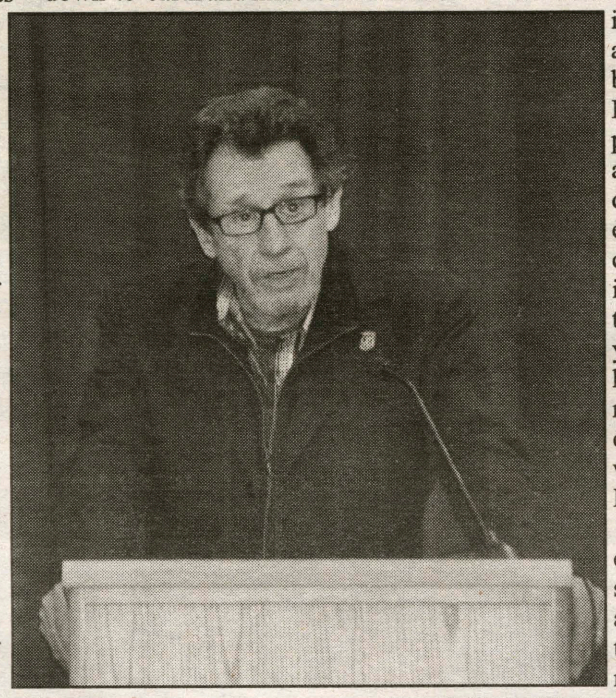
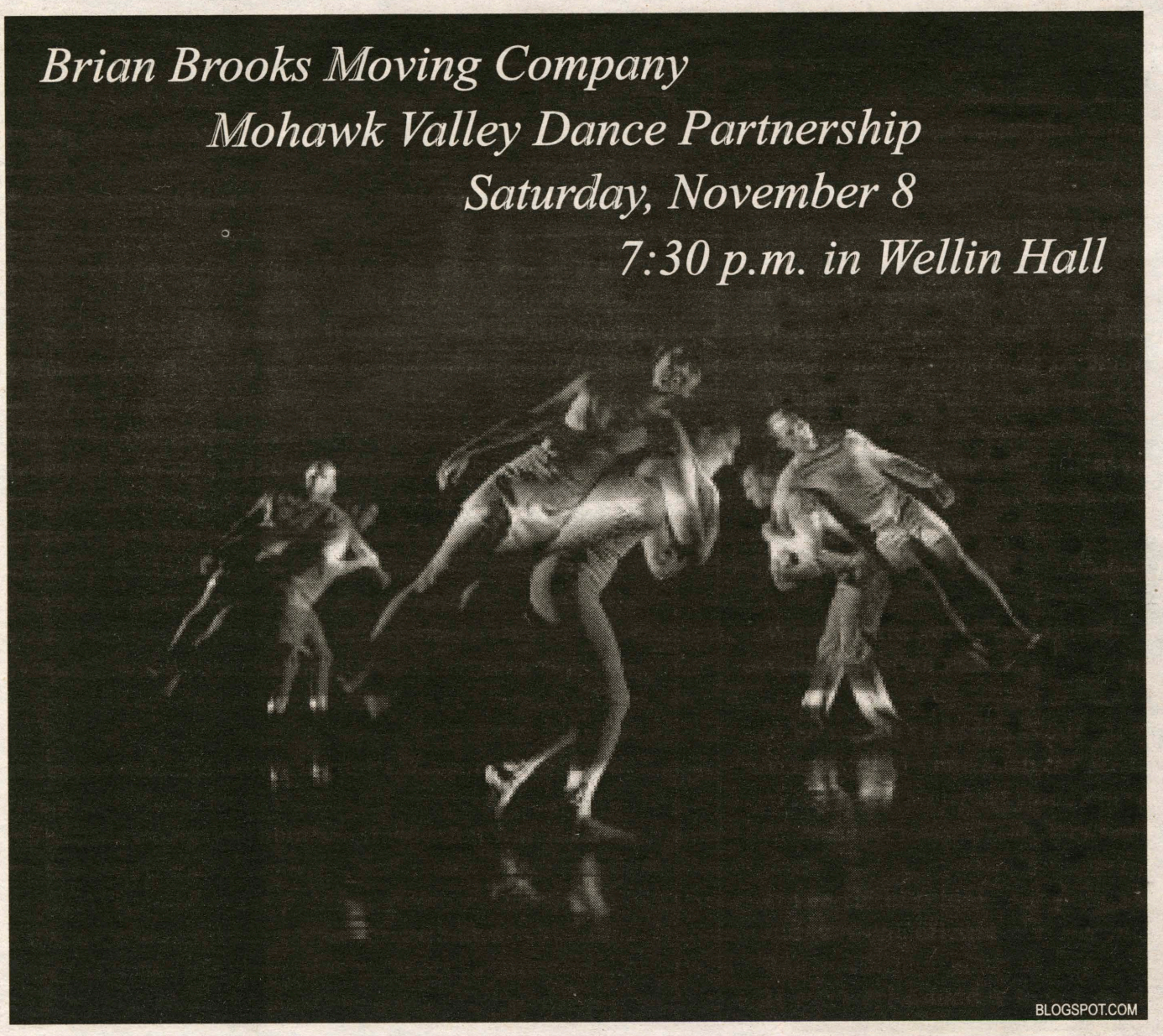


PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

Lentricchia's novel *The Killer Dog of Utica* centers around an ex-PI who must navigate the underworld of Utica, NY.

"Writing as an Italian-American?" presents the following question: what does it mean to be called an Italian-American writer? Lentricchia feels this ethnic categorization to be limiting. He does not see himself as an Italian-American writer, but rather as a writer who is Italian-American. As he explained, with the aid of several amusing anecdotes, his fiction draws heavily from his experiences growing up in working class, Italian Utica. His ideal is to create an "organic fiction," rooted in his personal youth. Lentricchia describes himself as a writer who is not bound by an ethnic genre characterization, but rather, whose prose exhibits "an Italian-American addiction."

The lecture was very engaging. Lentricchia raises several interesting points, and is not afraid to question the academic establishment. For instance, he railed against what he called the "thoroughly sociologized literary academy" that seeks to characterize and restrict writers through genre classifications. In his view, characterization is something innately anti-literary. He also pokes fun at the "canonical sons of bitches" so beloved by the literary establishment. Overall, he approached his subject in a distinctly unabashed, flippant, yet loving manner.

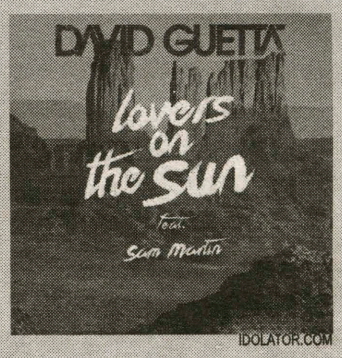


WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:
Tiki Till You Freaki
Saturdays at 5 p.m.

with...
Divya Seshadri '15,
Sky Aulita '15,
Julia Coash '16
and
Tina Choinski '15

This show is the perfect way to start your Thirsty Thursday, with some sick beats, pulsing rhythms, and crazy head-banging music. Get dressed, and get your drinks ready, 'cos we're gonna make you sweat!



Typical Playlist:

"Lovers on the Sun"
- David Guetta

"Tear The Roof Up"
- Alesso

"Five Hours"
- Deorro

"Hey Ho"
- Kronic & Kunk!

"Modana and Carlprit"
- Shake That Boo Boo

American Shakespeare Center's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* is ridiculous fun

by Brian Burns '17
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Much Ado About Nothing is one of the Bard's most brazenly entertaining works—a frothy confection that breeds guaranteed smiles. However, it is easy for a production of the play to become mired in the one-liners and gags, and fail to account for the humanity of the characters. *Much Ado* may be a tale that is spun like cotton candy, but it is more than feel-good junk food. Luckily, the production that the American Shakespeare Center brought to Hamilton College last Saturday night strikes the right balance of pathos and laughs. Their interpretation embraces the inherent absurdity of the play while maintaining its emotional core in Beatrice and Benedick's love story.

The production makes a statement before the actors have entered from behind the curtain, with audience seats placed directly on the stage. The actors interact with the audience, at times phrasing their lines directly to the front row. This, along with the small number of the troupe of actors (there are 11 performers in all, some of whom change parts throughout the play) creates a sense of intimacy that evokes Shakespeare's original staging. The set is sparse, consisting merely of a long curtain along the back of the stage from which the actors enter and exist.

SHAKESPEAREANCES.COM

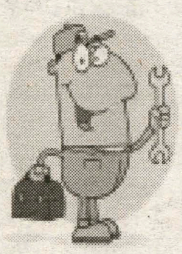
Patrick Earl and Stephanie Holladay Earl's chemistry is one of the highlights of this production of *Much Ado*.

The impressive costuming and the strength of the actors make up for the lack of a physical set.

The original play of *Much Ado* is set in the Italian city of Messina. This version takes the elegant old South as its setting. The soldiers returning from war look like Navy cadets in fresh-pressed suits. Margaret, a maid whose sauciness is brought to the forefront in this production, takes the stage in Daisy Dukes. There are also touches of modernity. The constable Dogberry, dressed like a park ranger or a grown-up cub scout in a tight brown uniform, touts a flashlight as his "lantern."

Despite the inventive staging, the production's soul remains its standout performances. The actor playing the constable Dogberry, Andrew Goldwasser, captures the oblivious bluster of the man of the law as he saunters across the stage. Instead of charging through his scenes, the actor exercises extreme patience. He strategic in dropping punchlines, stretching out his words in a slothful Southern drawl. Goldwasser's efforts make the inevitable belly laughs even richer. Watching the performance, one almost wishes that Shakespeare had written a spin-off for Dogberry just as he did for comedic foil Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Stephanie Holladay Earl as Beatrice similarly commands the stage. She captures the internal fire of Beatrice, always with a note of grit in her voice. Her "If I were a man" speech wreaks its own special devastation. Patrick Earl as Benedick captures the buffoonery and arrogance of his character (the goatee certainly helps), but brings much-needed weight to his more dramatic scenes later in the play. His challenging his best friend Claudio, often one of the more ludicrous elements of the play, becomes more believable as Earl plays it. The verbal sparring of Beatrice and Benedick is one of the most famous aspects of *Much Ado*, not to mention the inspiration for many a romantic comedy film. Patrick Earl and Stephanie Holladay Earl may spit venom at each other, but as the two play it there is always the hint of flirtation around the fringes. Their performances emphasize that the love between Beatrice and Benedick isn't only plausible - it was always inevitable.

The music is emphasized in this production far beyond the song "Sigh No More" that is included in the text. The intermission includes a pop song performance on acoustic guitar, stressing that Much Ado is truly a festive play. The production ends with a messenger taking a trumpet from his bag and wailing on it. What follows is a song and dance from the cast, united in their happy ending like the cast at the end of a Bollywood movie. The message is clear: *Much Ado* was basically the sixteenth century *Hair*, making the case for love in a time defined by structure. The American Shakespeare Center's production is pure euphoria, a sticky sweet treat that more than fulfills Shakespeare's mission of entertaining in his comedies. By the time Benedick announces at the end of the play that "man is a giddy thing," one is moved to agree with him.



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Hamilton squash team gears up for the season

by Jack Vissicchio '17
Sports Contributor

As the popularity of squash grows, more and more competitive programs are beginning to develop and improve across the country. This has not made things any easier for both Hamilton squads. However, as the only Division I sports team on campus, they are certainly not afraid of tough competition. With a new season upon them, the Continentals might not be quite ready to compete with noted national powerhouses. But Coach Jamie King and his captains seem primed to build on last year's success.

The men's team finished last season at a competitive 8-12, compiling victories against nationally ranked Connecticut College, Stanford and Tufts. Senior Captains Teddy Black and Mac Pivirotto both believe that finishing in the top half of the incredibly competitive NESCAC conference and taking down the archrival Colby Mules are both legitimately in the realm of possibility for this hungry and talented squad.

First, as the season begins the men must look to fill the void left by the graduation of two starters from last season: captain and top singles player Martin Bawden '14 and number nine player Xander Kerman '14. Bawden's loss will be especially tough for the team, as he started every match at number one singles last season.

However, it still seems that the team is ready to embrace this challenge along with any others that may come there way this season. Black is already impressed with this year's large first-year class containing five new players. And is confident that they are ready to help fill any voids left from last season. As he said, "all of the [first-years] are playing well and have fit into the team seamlessly. They have all been pushing the older players to work harder and have been contributing a lot to the team dynamic."

It is not surprising that these freshmen have not had a problem fitting in. When asked about the role of his captains so far this season, second-year player Tucker Hamlin '17 raved, saying, "Mac and Teddy have been working extremely hard to bring the team closer together and making sure that we are working hard everyday. Our team has a great chance to improve on last year and the extent of that improvement is going to be driven by Mac and Teddy."

Strong captain leadership and key first-year contributions will be vital. However, some could make the argument that it is Hamlin's continued development that could be the key to the team's success this season. He finished his very impressive rookie campaign at 8-12 last year as No. 2 in singles and will by vying for the No. 1 singles spot along with Black and Josh Wolpert '16. Both players who also seem to be primed to have breakout seasons after being very

see ***Squash,*** *page 15*

PHOTOS BY GABRIELA FOSTER '18

Field Hockey downed by #1 Bowdoin

by Daphne Assimakopoulos '16
Sports Writer

Despite losing its first playoff game to Bowdoin 6-0 last Saturday, the Continentals field hockey squad experienced one of its best seasons in Hamilton history this fall.

This was the Continentals's second appearance in NESCAC playoffs since 2011. After dismal 2012 and 2013 seasons, the Hamilton women have made a turnaround. Following a 1-9 in-conference record last year, the team finished with a 2-8 record and a playoff appearance.

Hamilton ended the regular season with 95 points and 37 goals, the best totals since 2010. Their overall win tally, in all competitions, stands at six games, another program high since 2010.

"I thought our season was definitely a journey but built on an already strong base," stated Merisa Dion '17. "We've started out strong for many of our games and our spirits have been bright due to the strong work ethic and team support we've had. I think our season as a whole has been really energetic, powered by all of the energy on the team and full of family love. We really came together as a team on and off the field."

Eva Rosencrans '17 once again led the Continentals offensively. Rosencrans recorded 36 points and 17 goals in the season, up from last season. Her totals stand second in program records.

"We really had the most incredible season. Although we didn't win all that much, we had so much fun," commented Rosencrans. "I love everyone so much and I could not have asked for better teammates."

The Continentals will be losing four seniors this spring: goalkeeper Victoria Trentini, forward Katey Hopper, defender Sam Sherman and midfielder Gabriele Lenihan. Rosencrans stated "the seniors were the heart of this team. Their leadership was incredible and we would not have been half the team without them." Trentini has been solid in the goal all season, recording two shutouts and an impressive save percentage of .719. Her 129 total saves led the NESCAC this season. Trentini has also recorded 524 saves in her career at Hamilton, a program record.

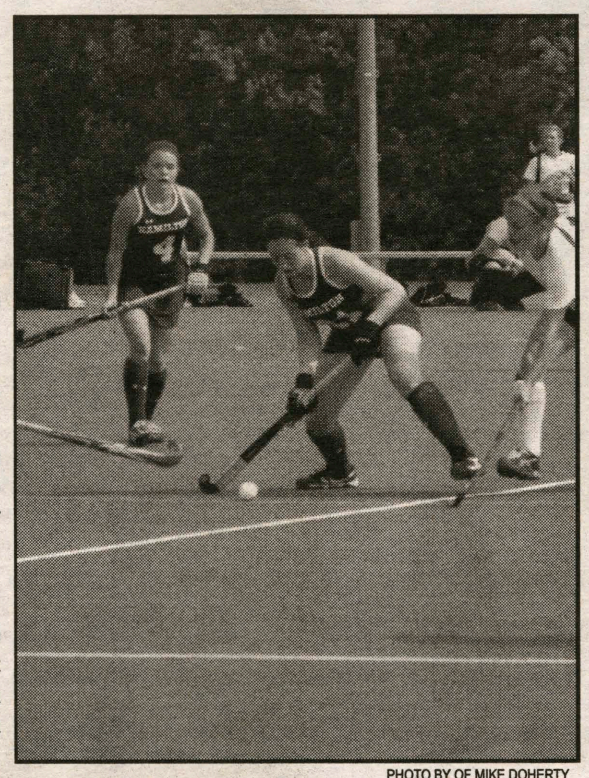

PHOTO BY OF MIKE DOHERTY

The field hockey team taking on Bowdoin.

Hopper played in all 16 games this season scoring four goals and earning nine points. This leaves her career totals at 48 games played, 15 points earned and seven goals scored. Hopper earned a place on the NESCAC All-Academic teams in 2013 and 2012.

Lenihan also played in all 16 games this season, putting her career total games played at 58.

Lenihan has recorded two assists in her Hamilton career, and five points. She also earned a place on the 2013 NESCAC All-Sportsmanship team.

Sherman also played in all 16 games. Her career total is 48 games, with three goals, 5 assists and 11 points earned. Sherman also led the Continentals with six defensive saves this season, leaving her career total at 21.

Dion commented on the season, "Our seniors did a great job of bringing the freshmen into the family and since then we've been a collective force. They have always been there for the rest of the team; as teammates, as friends, as mentors, as a shoulder to cry on. The seniors have been the prime example of Hamilton field hockey, wore their number with pride and, for me, made me feel like part of the family. I can't thank the seniors enough for all of their support."

Despite the best season in recent years, the Continentals aim to keep pushing their limits and achieve all they can. Although the loss of the senior class will impact the team, new talent will emerge and a strong work ethic will remain consistent into next season.

"I think if we keep improving like we have been recently we are going to be great in the next few years. Everyone wants to win and works really hard, and as long as we keep up our work ethic I think we have a lot of potential," Rosencrans said.

Dion said, "The program can improve even further by continuing to strive for excellence and maintaining the good vibes we've kept over the season. Continuing to welcome in the freshmen and never settling for less than our potential will bring our program to even greater things."

Squash preview continued

*from **Squash,** page 14*

solid and consistent contributors to the team last season as the third and fourth singles players, respectively. The men begin their season at Bates on Nov. 16.

The women's team finds itself with a host of new faces looking to build of their most successful season in team history. The team finished strong last season with an impressive 13-7 record against one of the toughest schedules in the country, turning in impressive wins against Amherst, Wesleyan and Middlebury. Their success culminated in reaching the highest national ranking in the history of the program, at No. 16.

The loss of three starters and the influx of a total of nine new first-years are going to make for a bit of an adjustment period for the girls at the beginning of the season for the girls. However, team captains Hilary Grey '15 and Izzy Weisman '15 are confident that behind the smooth direction of Coach King, their team's unique depth and ability is not only going to allow them to take the next competitive step in the NESCAC but also to have a fun time while doing it.

Weisman raved about Coach King's ability as a coach and mentor to all the girls on the team on and off the court saying, "On the court, Coach King communicates squash technique in a personalized and encouraging manner. Off the court, he is an outlet and confidant for myself, and many others. When I am stressed about school work or unsure how to tackle a problem, he has always been there to listen and provide advice. He is a unique coach because he does not think winning is the ultimate goal. Rather, he wants us to play our best, rely on our teammates, and enjoy the game."

This calming leadership has without a doubt been a great tool for the girls in the past. The women's team seemed to reflect their coach's demeanor last season as they were able to stay calm in the face of pressure and adversity, winning three matches by a 5-4 score last year.

Of course, a team needs talent and ability to be that competitive in the first place. Grey stressed how impressed she was with the depth of her team and how it will be the team's greatest strength.

"Every squash player has different strengths and weaknesses to their game," she said. "I believe that the novel playing styles from these new members will help us prepare for match play. This is how we challenge other teams, and is much of what allowed for our success this past season."

This should drive the women's team even further up the national rankings this year. Like the men's team, their season begins in two weeks against Bates on Nov. 16.

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Senior Athlete of the Week: Ben Yeo

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Editor

Name: Ben Yeo
Hometown: Chevy Chase, MD
Sport: Cross Country

Favorite professional athlete: Alex Ovechkin (Washington Capitals, NHL)

How you got introduced to Cross Country:

Hashem Zikry '13 endlessly harangued me during indoor track practice my freshman year until I agreed to run cross country the following fall season.

Favorite thing to do on campus besides your sport:

Muddin' in the Jeep while blasting Toby Keith anthems.

What attracted you to Hamilton's cross country program?

I was a soccer and lacrosse guy in high school and dabbled in track my senior year, so I never even thought about running cross until I enjoyed some moderate success in mid-distance indoor races my freshman year at Hamilton. Honestly, it took me a while to warm up to the distance guys that ran year-round—to be fair, executing a seemingly endless series of left turns on the track and slogging up College Hill Road is bound to make you a little…eccentric. Running became not just a way to remorselessly eat copious amounts of delicious Commons cuisine, but also a fraternity held together by pounding pavement and interval workouts on the golf course. No different than the camaraderie felt by any athlete at Hamilton, I assume.

What is the toughest obstacle you have had to overcome in your athletic career?

Territorial and aggressive dogs, unruly bowels, dehydration after signing so many autographs for the fans.

How has the cross country program evolved over past four years?

I'm tempted to say that as a group of guys, we haven't evolved (or at least matured) much; we still spend team dinners stuffing bananas with pudding and presenting it to the ladies' team as a "gift" and try to sink balled-up napkins into unguarded cups at Commons. On the other hand, this fall's squad is the deepest and fastest team Hamilton has seen in a hot minute. Our Coach (Brett Hull) has brought on top-notch assistant coaches in John Ostler and now Ben Carlson to both supplement his running knowledge and attract high school harriers that possess a workmanlike approach to training. Team success, like we have enjoyed this season, puts the pressure on some of our younger guys to be faster than their predecessors.

Have you fulfilled your expectations for your senior season, and what are those expectations for the Division III Championship?

Lucky for me, my senior season is only partially complete, as I have indoor and outdoor track ahead to leave my mark! That said, fast approaching is our Nationals qualifying race that will determine whether or not we toe the line as a team in Ohio in a few weeks. While I feel an undeniable sense of accomplishment both for how I ran this season and for our triumph as a team over a number of local rival schools, I hope to quell future "what-ifs" when looking back upon my last cross country season. I would like to leave the team in a better place than I found it, though I suppose the jury is still out on that one.

What has been your favorite sports memory at Hamilton?

Though I'm tempted to talk about the time where Coach jitneyed us twelve miles away from campus in the middle of Hurricane Irene and prompted us to run back, I suppose becoming a proud father at last year's NESCAC Championships would have to be my answer. During our warm-up our assistant coach pointed out a life-like baby doll lying in the middle of a field, joking that I was an irresponsible father for leaving my child unattended. Equipped with supreme parenting knowledge from watching *Toddlers & Tiaras*, I felt ready to assume responsibility as a father and toted Baby Aaron Carter around for the rest of the meet in the hood of my sweatshirt. Not only do I remember fondly that day because of the attention I received from female runners who found a father's coddling of his son adorable, but also because I received the (unofficial) award for "#1 Dad in the NESCAC."

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
November 6, 2014

Basketball program ready for the season

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Contributor

As the winter sports season officially begins, the Hamilton basketball teams look to make a statement on the hardwood. Both teams enter the season with high expectations and are working hard to improve upon a successful 2013-14 season.

The men's basketball team enters this season returning many of its impact players from last season's team that ended the year with an overall record of 14-11. "Ajani Santos '16 is one of the best forwards in the NESCAC. I would expect Pete Kazickas '15 and Jack Donnelly '16, last year's NESCAC 3 point percent leader, to step up this year as Captains as well," said head basketball coach Adam Stockwell.

"My expectations for this season are very high. This is the best we've looked this early on in my four years. Our goal is to host a home playoff game and advance to the national tournament and I believe we can do this," Kazickas said. "I am fully confident that we will continue to get better and have our best season yet."

Though there are many returning players for the Continentals this season, first-year players are looking to make an impact on the team. "We have a larger freshman class this year with six in the class. It is going to be a group that people will enjoy following. All six of them bring a lot of positive attributes to the team. It is a group with a lot of promise but much to learn as well," Stockwell said.

The men's team will start the season with an away game against SUNY New Paltz on Nov. 15 and will have its home opener against SUNY Polytechnic at 8 pm on Nov. 19. On Nov. 24, Hamilton will play host to an invitational tournament that will include local teams like Utica College and St. Lawrence University.

"I am excited about the potential for our season, as I believe we have a focused group of individuals across all classes who understand the work that has to be done to reach any of our goals. Most importantly, our team is lacking selfishness and egos, which even after only a few days of practice, has been a tremendous starting point and made it a lot of fun for everyone including the coaches," Stockwell said.

Bradley Gifford '16 and Dani Feigin '14 lead the teams last year.

The women's team also is looking to rebound from a quarterfinal exit in the NESCAC tournament and a seventh-place finish in the NESCAC standings. The 2013-14 team is returning its leading scorer, Sam Graber '16, as well as several other players looking to make an impact and carry the Continentals to a successful season.

The Continentals enjoyed a significant home-court advantage in the 2013-14 season, with a home record of 8-4, compared to an away record of 2-8. The team hopes to continue the advantage in the Scott Field House but also feels it is key to improve their road record in order to take another step forward in the NESCAC this season.

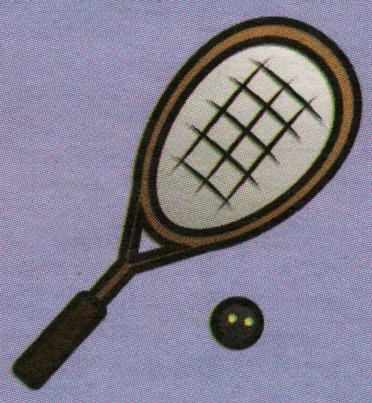
Adrianna Pulford '15, one of two seniors on the team, believes that the chemistry from continuity can overcome the relative inexperience. "I think our team has great chemistry and that goes incredibly far, especially in basketball," she said. "We have great depth and a lot of experience (nine returners on a team of twelve) which will be incredibly important, especially during NESCAC play. Additionally, many of our players are dynamic and can play multiple positions which will help considering our low numbers."

CoachMichelle Collins enters her third season as head women's basketball coach, looking to improve and get back to a record over .500 this season. Collins is losing two senior starters this season, but is looking to get a significant impact from an incoming first-year class that could be the team's X-factor this season. The team will look to top the NESCAC standings heading into the conference tournament.

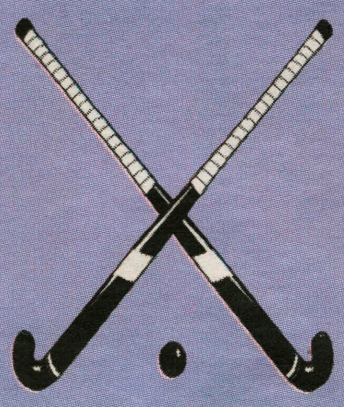
The Continentals will face a very tough conference schedule this year, facing off against two powerhouse teams late in the season. On Jan. 9, the Continentals will travel to Amherst to take on the Lord Jeffs, who went an impressive 26-4 and won all 13 home games in the 2013-14 season. On Feb. 5, the Continentals will take on Tufts, who came in fourth place in the Division III National Tournament in the 2013-14 season.

The women's team starts its season with a tournament (the Betty Abgott Invitational) at Buffalo State College on Nov. 15. The Continentals will have their home opener on Nov. 19 against SUNY Brockport at the Scott Field House.

Senior Athlete of the week Ben Yeo leading the running full force through his senior year



The Men's and Women's squash teams ready to improve upon their Top 25 finishes last year



The field hockey team is heading to the postseason for the first time since 2010